

# STAY ON THE WAY

02 - The Right Way to Plant & Grow a Healthy Church

**“ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.”**

**– MATTHEW 7:13-14**

THE RIGHT WAY TO  
**PLANT & GROW**

A HEALTHY CHURCH

By Glen Gerhauser



**1. Put Intimacy Above Ministry**

No matter how close your phone is to the outlet, it will not charge unless connected. Intimacy with God is connecting with him. It's the power behind authentic ministry (John 15:5).



**2. Stay on the Way of Worship, Prayer & the Word**

Stick to God's way. "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 14:12, NIV).

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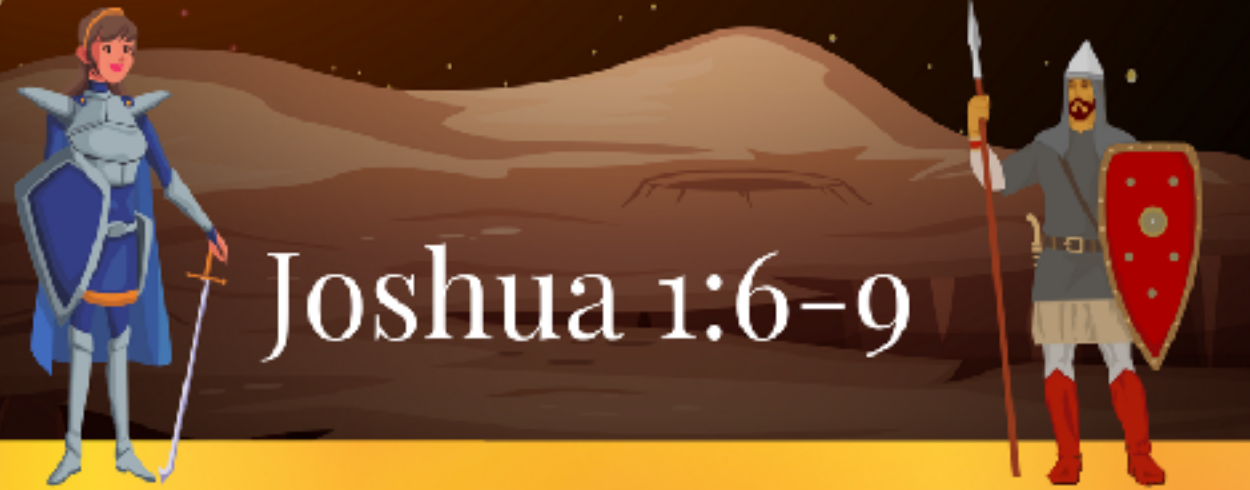


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# Be Strong

*Inspiration Translation by Glen Gerhauser*



## Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and resolute. Yes, you and the people will take possession of this land. I myself promised to give this land to your fathers.

Still, be strong and resolute. Guard and keep all the teaching that I ordered Moses, my servant. Do not swerve away from it to the right or the left - stay on track. Then, your mission will make steady progress.

Do not withdraw this book of teaching from your mouth. Instead, meditate on it day and night - whispering it to yourself and engaging with it. Then, you will be able to guard against attacks on it and put all of its writings into practice. Yes, valuing it will enable you to break through and make steady progress on your journey.

Have I not ordered you? Be strong and resolute. Do not be terrified, and do not let yourself be shattered. Yes, Yahweh, your God - the eternal, living and present one - is with you throughout your mission.

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# ***THERE ARE TEMPTATIONS TO THE RIGHT & LEFT***

**Sinful Pleasures**

**Liberalism**

**Taking Away from Scripture**

**Selfishness**

**Fleshly Temptation**

**Pride**

**Evil**

**Self-Inflicted Pain**

**Legalism**

**Adding to Scripture**

**Self-Righteousness**

**Spiritual Temptation**

**False Humility**

**Seemingly Good**

# THE YOUNG & THE OLD PROPHET

The king said to the man of God, “Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift.” But the man of God answered the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. For I was commanded by the word of the Lord: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’ ” So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.

1 Kings 13:7–10, NIV



# THE YOUNG & THE OLD PROPHET

Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king. Their father asked them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. So he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

"I am," he replied.

So the prophet said to him, "Come home with me and eat."

1 Kings 13:11–15, NIV

# THE YOUNG & THE OLD PROPHET

The man of God said, “I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. I have been told by the word of the Lord: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.’ ”

The old prophet answered, “I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the Lord: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’ ” (But he was lying to him.) So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

1 Kings 13:16–19, NIV

# THE YOUNG & THE OLD PROPHET

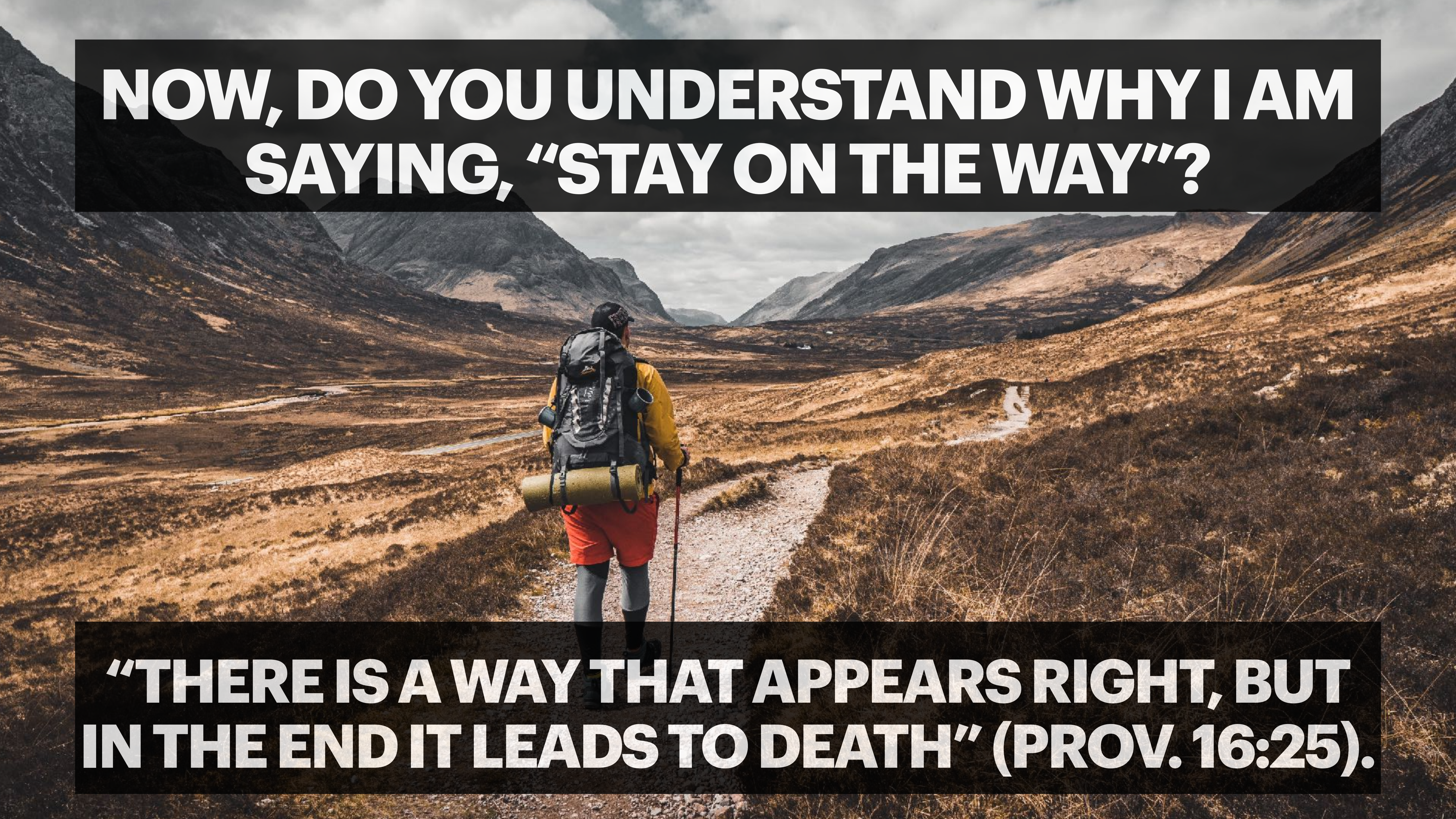
While they were sitting at the table, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet who had brought him back. He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, "This is what the Lord says: 'You have defied the word of the Lord and have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.' "

1 Kings 13:20-22

# THE YOUNG & THE OLD PROPHET

When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.

1 Kings 13:23-24, NIV

A hiker with a large backpack and trekking poles is walking away on a dirt path through a valley. The landscape is rugged with mountains in the background and a river or stream in the distance. The sky is overcast.

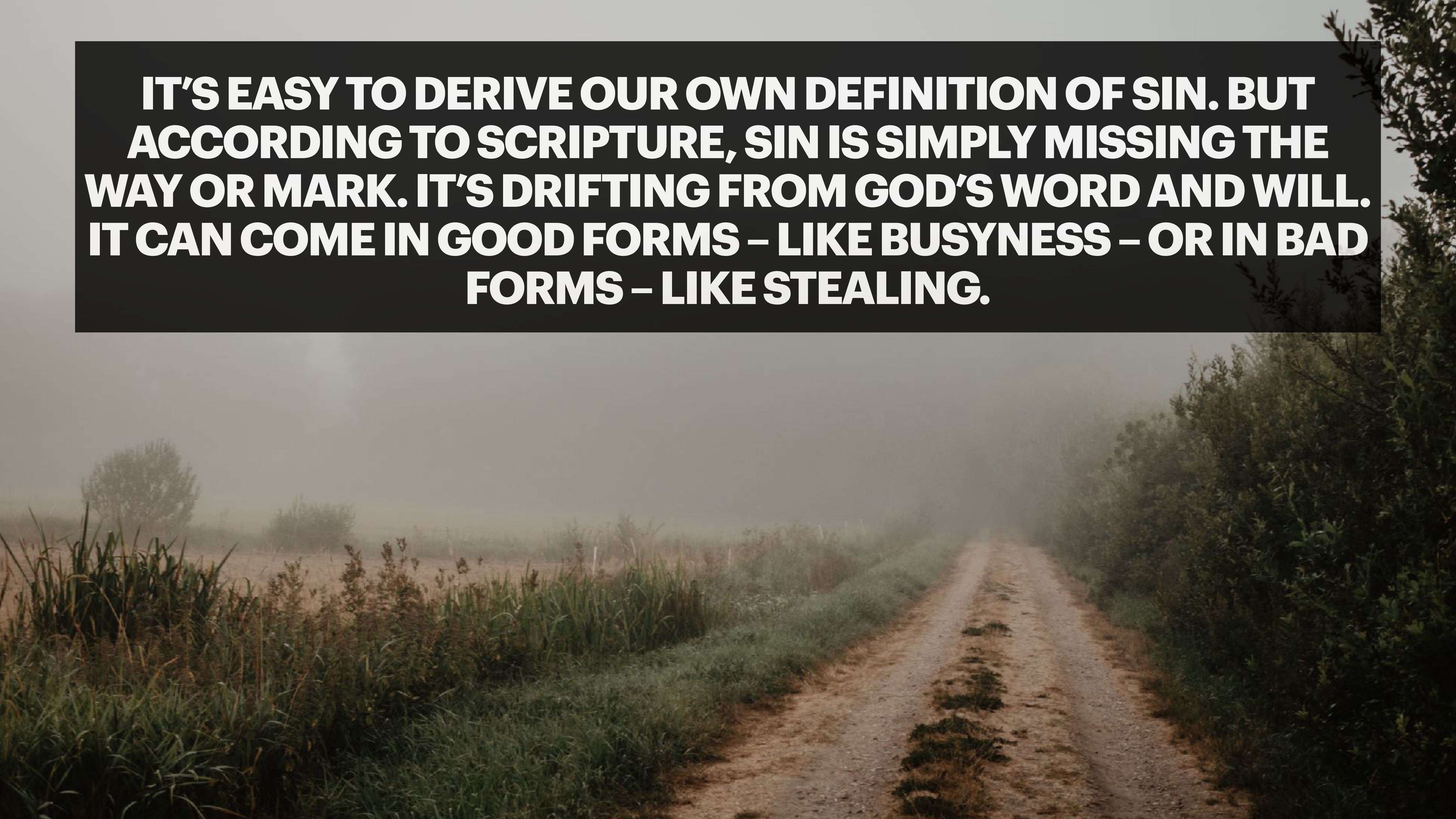
**NOW, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I AM SAYING, "STAY ON THE WAY"?**

**"THERE IS A WAY THAT APPEARS RIGHT, BUT IN THE END IT LEADS TO DEATH" (PROV. 16:25).**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU'VE  
PROPHESED OR HOW GREAT GOD HAS USED YOU. THERE'S  
ONLY ONE WAY: THE WAY OF WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND THE  
WORD.**



**IT'S EASY TO DERIVE OUR OWN DEFINITION OF SIN. BUT ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, SIN IS SIMPLY MISSING THE WAY OR MARK. IT'S DRIFTING FROM GOD'S WORD AND WILL. IT CAN COME IN GOOD FORMS – LIKE BUSYNESS – OR IN BAD FORMS – LIKE STEALING.**



**CHURCHES BECOME UNHEALTHY WHEN WE DON'T TAKE WORSHIP SERIOUSLY, WHEN CHATTING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRAYING AND WHEN OUR OPINIONS HAVE GREATER WEIGHT THAN GOD'S WORD.**





**THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD HAS  
GIVEN US HIS WAY. IT'S A SIMPLE WAY  
AND HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO STAY ON IT.**



**GOD'S HOUSE, HIS CHURCH, IS A HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER (MATT. 21:13). IT'S A PLACE WHERE GOD'S WORD IS HONOURED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON (2 TIM. 4:2). IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'S TRENDING OR POPULAR; WE STICK TO THE ETERNAL PATHS (JER. 6:16).**

